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## Canada

### Solid Wood Products

# Pettigrew Announces C\$20 Million for Canadian Forestry Sector Awareness Campaign 2002

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#### **Report Highlights:**

International Trade Minister Pettigrew announced that the Government of Canada will contribute C\$20 million to help Canada's softwood lumber industry raise awareness in the United States of the impact of U.S. softwood lumber duties on U.S. interests, and to step up Canada's advocacy efforts in the United States. C\$17 million will be provided for Canadian lumber associations to undertake a softwood industry-led campaign to raise awareness of the negative impact that softwood lumber duties will have in the United States, and to encourage productive negotiations and a resolution of this dispute. An additional C\$3 million will enhance the ability of the Canadian embassy and consulates in the United States to advance Canadian positions on key trade issues.

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## **PETTIGREW ANNOUNCES C\$20 MILLION FOR LUMBER AWARENESS AND TRADE ADVOCACY INITIATIVES**

International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced on May 27 that the Government of Canada will contribute C\$20 million to help Canada's softwood lumber industry raise awareness in the United States of the impact of punitive U.S. softwood lumber duties on U.S. interests, and to step up Canada's advocacy efforts in the United States.

Funding of \$17 million will be provided for Canadian lumber associations, led by the Forest Products Association of Canada, to undertake a softwood industry-led campaign to raise awareness of the negative impact that softwood lumber duties will have in the United States, and to encourage productive negotiations and a resolution of this dispute. An additional \$3 million will enhance the ability of the Canadian embassy and consulates in the United States to advance Canadian positions on key trade issues.

"In addition to hurting Canadians, punitive U.S. lumber duties also hurt American consumers, home builders and workers," said Mr. Pettigrew. "We fully support our industry in its efforts to bring these damaging costs to the attention of Americans. When they realize that these duties favour the few at the expense of many, perhaps Americans will see the need to resolve the dispute in a reasonable way."

These measures complement the \$75 million in funding announced by Natural Resources Minister Herb Dhaliwal on May 16, for three initiatives to ensure the long-term prosperity and competitiveness of Canada's forest industry.

"We will use the enhanced advocacy resources to reinforce the efforts of our embassy and consulates against rising protectionist actions in the United States," said Minister Pettigrew. "In Washington and elsewhere in the United States, we will aggressively voice our concerns about U.S. actions in sectors such as lumber, agriculture and energy."

The Government of Canada will continue to pursue World Trade Organization and NAFTA challenges against the United States, while still remaining open to a durable negotiated solution. It is anticipated that a better understanding of the issue among U.S. interests will lead to a stronger desire by the U.S. administration to break the current stalemate and return to the negotiating table with reasonable proposals.

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